

CHAPTER V.

MY ADVESTIGE AT THE "THREE CUPS." Secure of pursuit, and full of delight in the pare's easy motion, I must have traveled a good six miles before the moon rose. In the sty sky her rays sperkied cheerfully, and by them I saw on the holsters the silver demi ar that I knew to be the crest of the Killigrews, having the fellow to it engraved on hat the chill is in my bones werse than the pay sword hilt. So now 1 was certain 'twas sque," and, huddling my shoulders up, 1 slight to explore the holsters and saidle

Poor Anthony's pistols were gone-filched to doubt, by the captain; but you may gue sy satisfaction when, on thrusting my hand eeper, I touched a heap of coins, and found

was certainly a rare bargain I had driver with Capt. Settle. For the five or six gold pieces I scattered on the road, I had won ose on thirty guineas, as I counted in the conlight; not to speak of this incomparable Iolly. And I began to whistle gleefully nd tasta the joke over again and laugh to yself, as we cantered along with the north

All the same, I had no rollsh for riding is till morning. For the night was chil enough to search my very bones after the heat of the integallop; and, moreover, I knew nothing of the road, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall bull with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a ish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope

The building was an inn though a sorr it wear any grace of laspitality, but thrust out a have clouder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overload and looked for all the like a gallows. Round this shoulde wind howled like a benst in pain. I climbed off Molly, and, pressing my hat down on my Send, struck a loud rut-int on the door

coliple of men in the lighted passage HUROT. What in the fiend's name is this Said I, "if you are he that keeps thus he

want two things of you-first, a civil ougue, and next a bed " Ye'll get neither, then,

Your sign says that you keep an inn." Av-the 'Three Cure,' but we're full. Your manner of speech proves that to be

I liked the fellow's voice so little that 'the odds I would have remounted Molly and riddown the stairs and out through the drink Twas a girl's voice singing:

"Hey nouni—nouni—no! Men are foois that wish to die! Is t not fine to length and sing. When the balls of death do ring."

There was no sloubt upon it. The voice be longed to the young gentlewoman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards prise. The second man, that till now had stood well back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Molly with his gaze. Twas hard to read his features, but then and no other than Luke Settle's comrade. Bluel

My mind was made up. "Til not ride a step farther to-night," sold L Then bide there and Ireeze," answered the

He was for slamming the door in my face when the other caught him by the arm, and, or two. I guessed what this meant, but re landlord's voice began again, betwist surly

Have ye too high a stomach to lie on "Oho!" thought I to myself, "then I am to to the house:" and said along that I could pay

Because there's the stable left at your service. As ye bear" (and in fact the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice

company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare I'll help to put in stall," "Agreed." I said. "on one condition—that

you send out a maid to me with a cup of nulled sack: for this cold cats me alive into a side room with the other fellow, re tern, which, in spite of the moon, was need yard. The flare, as we picked our wavalong, fell for a moment on an open cart shed, and, within, on the gilt panels of a coach that I

In the stable that stond at the far end of he court I was surprised to find half a dozen horses standing, ready saddled and munching their fill of oats. They were ungroomed, and one or two in a lather of smoot that on suc a night was hard to account for. But I asked no questions, and my companion vouchsafes no talk, though twice I caught him regarding me curiously as I untridled the mare in the only vacant stall. Not a word passed as he took the lantern off the peg again and led the way up a rausmackle ladder to the loft above. He was a fat, lumbering fellow, and made the old timbers creak. At the top he sat down the light and pointed to a heap of straw

I could answer was picking his way down the

I kooked about, and shivered. The enves of my bed claimber were scarce on speaking terms with the walls, and through a score of nes at least the wind poured and whistied, so that after shifting my trues of straw a dezen times I found myself still the center of a wairf of draught. The candle flame, too, was pulled this way and that inside the horn sheath. I was lowing paramos when I beard footsteps below, the ladder creaked, and the roll hair and broad shoulders of a chambermaid ross into view Size carried a steaming mug in bechard, and muttered all

The weach had a kind face, though, and a pair of eyes that did her more credit than her

And wint's to be my reward for this, I want to know!" she panted out, resting her

Why, a great or two," said I, "when i "Lud!" she cried, "what a dull young

"Ay to make me ask for a kiss in so many

the wiped her mouth for it frankly, while staircase directly in front of me. I stayed

your master entertains to-night, that I must at the head of the states, I heard voices talk-She took the kines with composure and on the pane

a.Well, to begin, there's the gentlefolk that Let me try to describe that on which my came this afternoon with their own carriage, eres rested as I pushed the door wide. Twes

heathenish French servant; a cranks old grandee and a daughter with more airs than a pencock; Sir

Killigrew-Lord bless the boy!" For I had dropped the mug and spilled the not suck all about the straw, where it trickled away with a fragrance reproachfully deli-"Now I beg your pardon a hundred times;

counterfeited a shivering fit with a truthfu ness that surprised myself.

"-And 'tis first hot and then cold all down

"And goose flesh and flushes all over my "Dear heart-and to pass the night in this grave of a place!"

"And by morning I shall be in a high fe-; and oh! I feel I shall die of it!" "Don't; don't!" The honest girl's eye

re full of tears. "I wonder, now"- she began; and I waited, eager for her next "Sure, master's at cards in the parlor and 'll be drunk by midnight. pass the night by the kitchen fire, if only thou make no noise."

But your mistress-what will she say?" "Is in heaven these two years, and out of master's speaking distance forever. So blow out the light and follow me gently."
Still feigning to shiver, I followed berdown

the ladder and through the stable into the open. The wind by this time had brought up some beavy clouds and massed them about moon; but 'twas freezing hard, neverthe ess. The girl took me by the hand to guide or, save from one bright window in the upper floor, there was no light at all in the ward. Clearly, she was in droad of her master's anger, for we stole across like ghosts, once or twice she winspered a warning when my too kicked against a loose cobble. But just as I seemed to be walking into a stone wall she put out ber hand. I heard the click of a latch and stood in a dark, narrow

The passage led to a second door that opened on a wide, stone paved kitchen, lit by a cheerful fire, whereon a kettle hissed and bubbled as the vapor lifted the cover. the chimney corner was a sort of trap, or buttery batch, for pushing the hot di entently into the parior on the other side of the wall. Besides this, for furniture, the room held a broad deal table, an oak dresser, a linen press, a rack with hams and strings onions depending from it, a settle and a chair or two, with (for descrition) a dozen or so of ballad sheets stuck among the dish

covers along the wall. "Sit," whispered the girl, "and make no noise, while I brew a rack punch for the men folk in the parior." She jerked her thumb towards the buttery hatch, where I had al-

ready caught the murmur of voices I took up a chair softly, and set it down beeven the hatch and the fireplace, so that while warming my knees I could catch any word spoken more than ordinary loud on the other side of the wall. The chambermaid stirred the fire briskly, and moved about father, Sir Deakin." singing, as she fetched down bottles and glasses

> For constant Surah Ann, The banged hersel' in her garters All for the love o' man,

She was pausing, bottle in hand, to take note; but bushed suddenly at the sound of the voices surging in the room up-

Vivre en tout cas C'est le grand soula Des hometes gens ! "That's the foreigners," said the chamber-

and went on with her ditty "All for the love of a soniger Whose christ'ning name was Jan.' A velley of oaths sounded through the but-

-And that's the true born Englishmen, as you may tell by their speech. "Tis company the master keeps these days, She was continuing her song when I held up a finger for silence. In fact, through the tch my ear had caught a sentence that set

tening for more with a still heart, "Damn the captain!" the landlord's graff ice was saying; "I warned in agen this ancy business when sober, cool handed work

"Settle's way from his cradle," growled nother; "and times enough I've told 'n; Cap'n, says I, there's no ons about ye.' A master mind, sirs, but 'a Il be imaged for a ben roost, so sure as my

name's Ball Wathincomb. "Ugly words-what a creeping influence has that same mention o' hanging?" piped a Hold thy complaints Old Mortification

it in a speaker that I recognized for Black lick; "sure the pretry maid upstairs is tenr game. Hark how they sing!" And, indeed, the threatened folk upstairs ere singing their catch very choicely, with

the girl's clear voice to lead them: "Conunent dit nana "Heathen language, to be sure," said the hin voice again, as the chorus ceased; thinks I to mysel', 'They be but Papisters,'

an' my doubting mind is mightily reconciled "I don't like beginning "libout the cap'n." observed Black Dick; "though I doubt something has miscarried. Else, how did that young spark ride in upon the mare?"

'An' that's wint thy question should ha' You's your bed," he growled, and before been, Dick, with a pistol to his skull." "We'll give Settle half an bour more," said

"Mary!" he pushed open the hatch, so that I had burely time to duck my head out of view, "fetch in the punch, girl How did'st thou leave the young man i'

"Asleep, or nearly," answered Mary-Who banged hersel' in her gar-ters, All for the love o' man-

the kettle on the rank

up and made a step towards the girl.
"How many are they?" I asked, jerking fincer in the direction of the parlor

"Where is the foreign guests' room?" Left hand, on the first landing. The stuittmer

Just outside the door." hen song-go on singing for your life."

"Dear heart, they Il murder thee! Oh! for pity's sake, let go my wrist-

"Lament, 50 maids and darters?" I stole to the door and peeped out. A lan words;" and with the back of her left hand tern hung in the passage, and showed the "I send, "I beg your pardon, but my ing them in my left hand, crept up the stairs for a moment to pull off my boots, and, hold wits are frozen up, I think. There's two, for in the kinchen, the girl was singing and clat interest, and another if you tell me wants toring the glasses together. Behind the door. ing. I slipped on my boots again and tapped

THE PLIGHT IN THE PINE WOOD

ome dark wood, and in daytime lit by one gone in drink, and afterwards found this to window only, which now was hung with red be the case. I looked round. Sir Deakin curtains. By the fireplace, where a brisk and picked up the lamp and was mixing his wood fire was crackling, leaned the young bowl of punch, humming to himself without gentlewoman I had met at Hungerford, who the least concern: as she now turned her eyes upon me, ceased fingering the guitar or mandolin that she

"Vivre en tout car C'est le grand soules " with a glauce at his daughter's face, that was

But 'twas on the table in the center of the chamber that my gaze settled; and on two and then, "Why, daughter, what's this?-n men beside it, of whom I must speak more And all the while the footsteps were com-

was a little, frail, deformed gentleman of about fifty, dressed very richly in dark velvet and furs, and wore on his head a velvet skull cap, round which his white hair stuck up like a ferret's. But the oddest thing about him was a complexion that any maid of sixteen would give her ears for-of a pink and white so transparent that it seemed a soft light must be glowing beneath his skin. On either cheek bone this delicate coloring centered in a deeper flush. This is as much as I need say about his appearance, except that his eyes were very bright and sharp and his chin stuck out like a victous mule's.

held against her waist, and raised her pretty

The elder, who sat in a high backed chair,

head not without curiosity.

particularly.

The table before him was covered with bottles and flasks, in the middle of which stood a silver lamp burning, and over it a silver saucepan that sent up a rare fragrance as the liquid within it simmered and bubbled. o eager was the old gentleman in watching the progress of his mixture, that he merely ed up at my entrance and then, holding up a hand for silence, turned his eves on the

The second man was the broad shouldered ackey I had seen riding behind the coach, and now stood over the saucepan with a "Before asking your business sir, I would twisted flask in his hand, from which he beg you and your company to taste this poured a red sirup very gingerly, drop by drop, with the tail of his eye turned on his master's face, that he might know when to

Now it may be that my entrance upset this experiment in strong drinks. At any rate, I had scarce come to a stand about three pag inside the door, when the little old gentleman bounces up in a fury, kicks over his chair, hurls the nearest bottles to right and left, and sends the silver saucepan spinning across the table to my very feet, where it scalded me clean through the boot, and made

me hop for pain. "Spoiled-spoiled!" he screamed; "drenched in filthy liquor, when it should have breathed but a taste!"

And to my amazement he sprang on the strapping servant like a wild cat and began beat, cuff and belabor him with all the

rength of his puny limbs. Twas like a scene out of Bedlam. Yet all of her instrument, while the servant took the rain of blows and slaps as though twere a

bair, and, dropping on the floor, began to roll about in a fit of coughing, the like of which no man can imagine. Twas hideous.

He barked, and writhed, and barked again.

It touched the girl's arm, and we made as if to fetch a couple of chairs that stood against to fetch a couple of chairs that stood against till the disorder seemed to search and rack the wainscot by the door. As we did so, Sir every innermost inch of his small frame. Deakin pushed the punchbowl forward under And in the intervals of coughing his excia-mations were terrible to listen to.

help.
The servant picked up the chair, and tothe cough abated, and he lay back, livid in the face, with his eyes closed and his hands ciutching the knobs of the chair. I turned to the girl. She had neither spoken nor stirred, but now came forward and calm-

"I think," said I, "that your name is Killi-"I am Delia Killigrew, and this is my "Now on his way to visit his estates in

"Then I have to warn you that your lives are in danger." And, gently as possible, I told her what I had seen and heard down-stairs. In the middle of my tale the servant stepped to the door, and returned quietly. There was no lock on the inside. After a iron bars as thick as a man's thumb, strongly eyelids. words; for, returning his sword and waited for the end of my tale. The girl also did not interrupt me, but listenod in silence. As I censed, she said:

'Is this all you know?' "No," answered I, "it is not. But the rest I promise to tell you if we escape from this ace alive. Will this content your

She turned to the servant, who nodded, Whereupon she held out her hand very cor-

dially, "Sir, listen: we are travelers bound for Cornwall, as you know, and have some small possessions that will poorly reward the greed of these violent men. Nevertheless, we should be hurrying on our journey did we not await my brother Anthony, who was to have ridden from Oxford to join us here, but a smile us been delayed, doubtiess on the king's

She broke off, as I started; for below I heard the main door open, and Capt. Setle's voice in the possage. The arch villain

had returned "Mistress Delia." I said, hurriedly, "the twelfth man has entered the home, and uness we consider our plans at once, all's up

with us. "Tush!" said the old gentleman in the chair, who (it seems) had heard all, and now "I, for my part, shall sat up brisk as ever. mix another glass, and leave it all to Jacques. Come, sit by me, sir, and you shall see some pretty play. Why, Jacques is the nentest rogue with a small sword in all France!"

"Sir," I put an, "they are a round dozen in all, and your life at present is not worth a That's a lie! 'Tis worth this bowl before me that, with or without you, I mean to empty. What a fool thing is youted Sir,

must be a dying man like myself to ife properly." And, as I am a truthful man, he struck up, quavering merrily:

"Hey, nonni-nonni-no | Men are fools that wish to die! Is'l not fine to laugh and sing When the bells of death do ring? Is't not fine to drown in wine, And turn upon the toe, And sing, hev-nonu.-Hey, nothi-nonu.-"Come and sit, sir, nor spoil sport. You are

too raw, I'll wager, to be of any help, and boggling I detest."
"Indeed, sir," I broke in, now thoroughly angered, "I can use the small sword as well

"Tush! Try bim, Jacques." Jacques, still wearing a stolid face, brought eapon to the guard. Stung to the quick I wheeled round and made a longe or two int he put aside as easily as though I were a babe. And then-I know not how it hars pened, but my sword slipped like ice out of my grasp, and went flying across the room acques, sedately as on a matter of business. stepped to pick it up, while the old gentleman

I was not and ashamed, and a wore of his er words sprang to my tongue tip, when the Frenchman, as he rose from stooping, caught my eye, and beckoned me across to him. He was white as death, and pointed to the bilt of my sword and the demi-bear engraved

He is dead," I whispered: "hush!-turyour face aside-killed by those same dogs that are now below." I heard a sob in the true fellow's throat But on the instant it was drowned by the sound of a deer opening and the tramp of

feet on the stairs. CHAPTER VI.

white to the lips, but firmly set.
"Hand me the nutmeg youder," he said,

There was a loud knock on the door Come in!" called Sir Deakis.

At this, Jacques, who stood ready for bat-tle by the entrance, wheeled round, shot a ook at his master and, dropping his made a sign to me to do the same. The door was thrust rudely open, and Capt. Settle, his hat cocked over one eye and sham drunkenness in his gait, lurched into the room, with the whole villainous crew behind him, huddled on the threshold. Jacques and I tepped quietly back, so as to cover the girl. Would you mind waiting a moment ired Sir Deakm, without looking up, but rubbing the nutmeg calmly up and down the grater; "a fraction too much, and the whole

sunch will be spoiled." It took the captain aback and be came to a stand, eying us, who looked back at him without saying a word. And this discomposed him still further.

There was a minute during which the two parties could hear each other's breathing. Sir Deakin set down the nutmeg, wiped his thin white fingers on a napkin, and addressed

liquor, which, in the court of France" old gentleman took a sip from the mixing ladie-"bas had the extreme honor to be pronounced divine." He smacked his lips, and, rising to his feet, let his right hund rest on the silver foot of the lump as he bowed to the

Capt, Settle's bravado was plainly oozing away before this polite auducity; and Deakin taste the punch, he pulled off his cap n a shamefaced manner and sat down by he table with a word of tounks.

"Come in, sirs; come in," called the old gentleman, "and follow your friend's example. Twill be a compliment to make me mix another bowl when this is fluished." He stepped ground the table to welcome ti still resting his hand on the lamp, as if for stendiness. I saw his eye twinkle as they shuffled in and stood around the chair where

the captain was seated. Jacques, bring glasses from the curboard the while the girl leaned quietly against the youder! And, Delia, fetch some chairs for mantel shelf and softly touched the strings ur guests—no, sirs, pray do not move!

He had waved his hand lightly to the door as he turned to us; and in an instant the insummer shower, grinning all over his face teution as well as the bright success of this and making no resistance at all. Then, as I stood dumb with perplexity, the one between us and the stairs, and as for Sir lid gentleman let go his hold of the fellow's Deakin himself, he had already taken the step comedy flashed upon me. There was now no of putting the table's width between him and

the captain's nose.

"He's dying!" I cried, and ran forward to
to your friends on the foretaste."
Settle's nose bung over the steaming com "Smell, sir," he cried, airly, "and report pound. With a swift pass of the hand, the old gentleman caught up the lamp and had shaken a drop of burning oil into the bowl, A great biaze leaped to the ceiling. There was a howl-a scream of pain; and as I pushed Mistress Delia through the doorway id out to the head of the stairs, I caught a backward glimpse of Sir Deakin rushing

> Down stairs, for your life!" I whispered to the girl, and, turning, as her father turnbled past me, let his pursuer run on my sword, as on a spit. At the same instant, auother binde passed through the fellow trans-versely, and Jacques stood beside me, with

after us, with one of the stoutest of the rol

his back to the lintel. As we pulled our swords out and the man dropped, I had a brief view into the room, where now the biazing liquid ran off the table in a stream. Settle, stamping with agony, minute he went across and drew the red cur-tains. The window had a grating within, of had his palms pressed against his scorched The fat landford, in trying to beat clamped in the stone work, and not four out the flames, had increased them by upinches apart. Clearly, he was a man of few setting two bottles of aqua vitze, and was fit to die, I am he and that's just my reasondancing about with three fingers in his mouth.

founded; but Black Dick had his pistol lifted. Jacques and I sprang out for the landing and round the doorway. Between the flash and the report I felt a sudden scrape, as of red hot wire, across my left thigh and just above the knee.

"Tenez, camarade," said Jacques' voice in my ear; "a mol la porte-a vous le maître, where, by the giare of the conflagration that best past us, I saw the figures of Sir Deakin and his daughter standing

"But how can you keep the door against a The Frenchman shrugged his shoulders with

For at this moment came a rush of foot-steps within the room. I saw a fat paunch thrusting past us, a quiet pass of steel, the landlord was wallowing on his face across the threshold, Jacques' teeth snapped to gether as he stood ready for another victim;

and as the fellows within the room tumbled back he motioned me to leave him. I sprang from his side, and, catching the rail of the staircase, reached the foot in a "Hurry!" I cried, and caught the old bar-

onet by the hand. His daughter took the other, and between us we hurried him across the passage for the kitchen door. Within, the chambermaid was on her kness by the settle, her face and apron of the same hue. I saw she was incapable of helping, and

ed across the stone floor and out towards too back entrance. A stream of icy wind blew in our faces as we stepped over the threshold. The girl and I bent our beads to it, and, stumiling, tripping and panting, pulled Sir Deakin with us

The yard was no longer dark. In the room penuon of finine shot out over our heads. arms for warmth and treatile on my fine cking the thatch. In the glare of it the outbuildings and the yard gate stood clearly | kept my ears on the alert, but heard nothing out from the night. I heard the trampling of feet, the sound of Sottle's voice shouting an order, and then a dismal rell and clash of steel as we flung othen the gate.

"Jacques" screamed the old gentleman; I did so the gir 'my poor Jacques! These dogs will mangle from her doss. him with their cut and thrust' Twas very sigular and sad, but, as if in an-

Twas very sigular and sad, but, as if in answer to Sir Deakin's cry, we heard the brave above her: "Las aught happened?" fellow's voice; and a famous shout it must have been to reach its over the roaring of the "Mon malire-mon maftre" be called twice, and then "Sauve toi?" in a fainter voice, yet clear. And after that only a racket of she

and outcries reached us. Without doubt the

villains had overpowered and slain this brave be after us at once; 'twas all we could do to irag the old man from the gate and up the road; and as he went he went like a child. have caught my death very likely. The big flakes drifted down between the gate and began to cut across a field, for I ped thus not only to baffle purent for a while, but also to gain the wood that we saw mly ahead. It reached to the top of the hill and I knew not how fur beyond; and, as

with loud cries and the sound of footsters running up the road after us. that had been scurrying across the moon's child's By the sound of their steps I guessed one face now for a minute left a clear interval of ! Bay in such. Awaking Mistress Delia, ! should enother scient not two guashous be

sky about ner; so that right in our course there lay a great patch brilliantly lit, whereon our figures could be spied at once by any one glancing into the field. Also, it grew evident that Sir Deakin's late agility was but a short and sudden triumph of will over body; for his poor crooked legs began to trail and lag So, turning sharp about, we struck for the nedge's shadow, and there pulled him down in a dry ditch and lay with a hand on his mouth to stiffe his ejaculations, while we

ourselves held our breathing. The runners came up the road, pausing for a moment by the gate. I heard it creak, and maw two or three dark forms enter the fieldthe remainder tearing on up the road with a great clatter of boots.

"Alas, my poor Jacques" mouned Sir Deakin; "and to be butchered so, that never in his days killed a man but as if be loved

"Sir," I whispered harshly, "if you keep this noise I must gag you." And with that he was silent for a while There was a thick tangle of brambles in the ditch where we lay; and to this we owe our lives. For one of the men, coming our way, passed within two varies of us, with the flat

his sword beating the growth over our "Reu-ben! Reuben Gedges;" called a voice

The fellow turned; and, peeping between the brainble twigs, I saw the moonlight glit-tering on his binds. A narrow, light inneed man he was, with a weak chin; and since then

I have paid him out for the fright he gave us. What's the coll?' he shouted back,

"The stable roof's ablaze-for the Lord's come and save the horses." He strode back, and in a minute the field was clear. Crosping out with caution I grew aware of two mournful facts; first, that the stable was indeed afire, as I perceived by standing on tiptos and looking over the hedge; and, second, that my knee was hurt by Black Dick's buliet. The muscles had stiffened while we were croacoing, and now pained me hadly. Yet I kept it to myself as we started off again to run.

led into the woods I pulled up. "Sorry I am to say it, but you must go on ing among the pines, and to the right of the

"O-oh!" cried the girl. Tis for your safety. See, I leave a trail of blood behind me, so that when day rises they will track us easily." And, sure enough, even by the moon, 'twas

easy to trace the dark spots on the grass and earth beside the stile. My left boot, too, was She was silent for a while. Down in the valley we could hear the screams of the poor snoring. horses. The light of the flames lit up the pine

trunks about us to a bright scarlet. "Sir, you hold our gratitude cheaply," She unwound the kerchief from her neck, and, making me sit on the stile, bound up my knee skillfully, twisting a short stick in the bassings to stop the bleeding.

I thanked her, and we burried on into the depths of the wood, treading silently on the deep curpet of pine needles. The ground rose oly all the way; and all the way, though the light grow feebler, the roar and outcries in the valley followed us. Towards the hill's summit the trees were

sparser. Looking upwards I saw that the sky had grown thickly overcast. We crossed the ridge, and after a minute or so were in ick cover again. Twas here that Sir Deakin's strength gave Almost without warning, he sank down between our hands, and in a second was taken with that hateful cough, that once al-

ready this night had frightened me for his Ah, ah!" he groaned, between the spasn I'm not fit-Pm not fit for it!" and was that I feared the sound would bring all Set-tle's gang on our heels. "I'm not fit for it." he repeated, as the cough left him, and he lay

ek helpless among the pine needles. Now, I understood his words to bear on his mfitness for death, and judged them very depent and properly spoken; and took open

and staring, "for what I've think I'm un "Why, to die, sir-to be sure!" "Holy Mother!" He regarded me with surprise, contempt and pity, all together; "was ever such a dunderhead! If ever man were able complaint. Heart alive! 'tis unfit to live

I am, tied to this absurd body?" I suppose my attitude expressed my lack of comprehension, for he lifted a finger and "Tell me-can you eat beef and drink bee

and enjoy them!" "And fight-hey! and kiss a pretty girl, and be glad you've done it? Dear, doar, how I do hate a fool and a fool's pity! Lift me

up and carry me a step. This night's work has killed me; I feel it in my lungs. Tis a pity, too, for I was just beginning to enjoy I lifted him as I would a babe, and off we. set again, my teeth shutting tight on the pain of my hurt. And presently, coming to hillside, well hid with deed bracken and The place was well speltered from the wind that rocked the treetops, and I feared to go much farther, for we might come on ope peril. It seemed best, therefore, to lay the id gentleman snugly in the bottom of ti dingle and wait for day. And with my buff

cont, and a heap of dried leaves, I made him fairly easy, reserving my cloak to wrap about Mistress Delia's fair neck and shoulders. But against this at first she protested "For how are you to manage?" sie asked. "I shall tramp up and down, and keep

for the berealed you gave me from your own At last I persuaded her, and she crept clo to her father, and under the edge of the buff dry bracken in the dingle, and with this and

beside ber father; "and 'tis but fair exchange

over and left them to flud what sleep they might.

For two bours and more after this I hobbled above some one had pushed the casement to and fro near them as well as my wound pen, letting in the wind; and by this 'twas | would allow, looking up at the sky through very evident the room was on fire. Indeed, the pine tops, and listening to the subbing of the curtains had caught, and, as we ran, a the wind. Now and then I would swing my that were sorely benumbed; and all the while

Twas, as I said, something over two hours after, that I felt a soft, cold touch, and then another, like kisses on my forehead. I put up my hand and looked up again at the sky. I did so the girl gave a long sigh and awoke

"Av." replied I, "something is happen that will wipe out our traces and my bloody track. "And what is that?" "Snow! See, 'tis falling fast."

She bent over and listened to her father's Twill kill him." she said, simply I pulled some more fronds of the bracker to cover them both. She thanked me and offered to relieve me in my watch, which I re fused. And indeed by tring down I should

pines, till, as the most paled, the ground bout me was carputed all in white, with the foliage black as luk above it. Time after time, as I tramped to and fro, I paused to brush the fresh forming beap from the sleep I was reflecting that there lay our chance of safety. I heard the inn door below burst open ers' coveriet and shake it gently from th tresses of the giri's hair. The old man's face was covered completely by the buff coat, but er, to complete our fir, the clouds | his breathing was culm and regular as any

went off to explore. She crept out from her bed with a little shiver of disgust.

She nodded; and, looking back, as I strode own the hill, I saw her moving about quickly, swinging her arms, and only pausing to wave a hand to me for good speed.

"Run about," I advised, "and keep the

Twas an hour before I returned, and plents I had to tell. Only at the entrance to the lingle the words failed from off my tongue The old gentleman lay as he had him through out the night. But the bracker had bee sed aside, and the girl was lateeling over him. I drew mear, my step not argusing ber Sir Deakm's face was pale and calm; but on the snow that had gathered by his head lay a red streak of blood. Twas from his lungs, and he was quite dead.

> CHAPTER VIL I FIND A COMBADE

But I must go back a little and tell you hat befell in my expedition.

I had scarce trudged out of sight of my friends, down toe hill, when it struck me that my footprints in the snow were in the last degree dangerous to them, and might lead Settle and his crew straight to the dir Here was a fix. I stood for some min utes nonplused, when above the stillness of the wood for the wind had dropped) a faint sound as of running water enught my ear, The sound seemed to come from my left.

it, and after two hundred pures or so came gushed down the slope with quite a considerable chatter and impatience. The bed of it was mainly earth, with here and there a large I stepped into the water and began to throad my way down between the banks of snow, twas necessary to look carefully to my steps. down a sharper declivity, or shot over a took in these places, my progress was easy But at the stile that, at the top of the field, enough. I must have waded in this manner at into the woods I pulled up. noise, when at an angle ahead I spied a

> stream, on the very verge, a but standing, with a weedrick begind it. Twas a low building, but somewhat lon and I guessed it to be, in summer time, a habitation for the wood cutters. But what sur-prised me was to hear a dull, meaning noise. very regular and disquieting that sounded from the laterior of the hut. I listened, and hit on the explication. Twas the

Drawing pearer with caution, I noticed, in that end of the but which scool over the tream, a gap, or window hole. The sound issued through this like the whirring of a dozen looms. "He must be an astonishing fellow," thought I, "that can shore in this I'll have a peep before I wake him. I waded down till I stood under the sill, put both hands upon it, and, pulling myself quiet as a mouse, stuck my face in at the winow, and then very nearly set back into the brook for fright.

For I had gazed straight down into the nu turned faces of Capt. Settle and his gang. How long 1 stood there, with the rushing past my ankles, and my body turn ing from cold to hot and back again, I cannot tell you. But 'twas until, hearing no pause in the sloepers' chorns, I found courage for another peep; and that must have been some time. There were but six rascals besides the cap-

tain to that Jacques must have died hard.

and swollen upturned faces as they made I defy you to picture. For they were packed e as herrings, and the hut was fi with their horses, ready saddled and rubbing shoulder to loin, so narrow was the room. needed the open window to give them air; and, even so, 'twas not over fresh inside I had no mind to stay; but before leaving found myssif in the way of playing these villains a pretty trick. To right and left of the window, above their heads, extended two rude shelves that now were heaped with what I conjectured to be the spoils of the larder of the "Three Cups." Holding my breath and thrusting my head and she nto the room, I ran my hand along and was

a loaf, the balf of a cold pie and a basket holding three dozen eggs. All these prizes ! fliched one by one, with infinite caution. the window hole, when I heard one of the So, determining to risk no more, I quickly packethe besket, slung it on my right arm,

mickly possessed of a boiled hum, two capens

and with the ham grasped by the knuckle in Twas thus laden that I entered the dingle, and came on the sad sight therein. I set down the barn as a thing to be ashained of, and bared my head. The girl lifted ber face, and turning, all white and tragical, saw me. 'My father is dead, sir.

I stooped and piled a leap of fresh snow over the blood stains. There was no intent in this but to hide the pity that choked me. She had still to hear about her brother, Anthony. Turning, as by a sudden thought, I took her hand. She looked into my eyes, and her own filled with tears. touch that loosened their flow, I think; and sinking down again beside her father she Mistress Killigrew," I said, as soon as the

emies are encamped in the woods, about a They have done their worst, sir."

She looked at me with a question on her Said I, "You must believe me yet a short while without questioning " Considering for a moment, she needed. "You have a right, sir, to be trusted, though

know not so much se your name. Then we ust stay close in hidiner?" she added very sensibly, though with the last word her voice trailed off, and she began again to weep But in time, having covered the dead bard net's body with sprays of the withered brack en, I drew her to a little distance and prevailed on her to nibble a crust of the loaf. Now, all this while, it must be remembered was in my shirt sleeves and the weather

'Why, you are chivering sere!" she said, and, running, drew my buff coal from her father's body, and held it out to me. "Indeed," I sowered, "I was thinking of another expedition to warm my blood."

Which at length her sorrow al-

promining to be tack to half an neur I felowed down my former tracks towards the Within twenty minutes I was back run-

"Come?" I cried to her, "come and see for What had isopposed was fast: Wading dealy to price up my ears and come to a half. Two the muffled tramp of heefs that I heard, and, creening a bit farther, I cangut a isappearing down the woods. He was the hat of the party, as I ground from the sound of voices and pingling of hits farther down the slope. Advancing so the but with more boliness, I found it deserted, I scrambled up on the bank and round to the extraore. The snow before it was trampled and stilled by the footnucks of men and horses; and as nufer this, came Settle's wome calling up the

Jerry-Jerry Toy?" A nearer voice builed in answer.
"Where's Renten?"

"Coming, captain—class behind?" "Curse him for a lottering ident. We've wasted fuon emough, as 'tis," called back the captain. "How in thunder is a man to find

the road out of this cursed wood?" Straight on, cap's -you can't miss it."

A volcano of outles poured up from Setzl I did not wait for the end of them, but rad

back for Mistress Delia.

Together we descended to the hut. By this time the voices had faded away in distance. Yet to make sure that the races had really departed, we followed their tracks for some way, beside the stream; and suddenly came-

way, beside the stream; and stream.

The brook had led us to a polutation, over a stony fall veiled with brown breaken, is plunged into a narrow rawine. Sanaling on the lip, where the water took a smoother glide before learing, we saw the line of the ravine marked by a rill, in-the pines, and through this a slice of the country that lay below. Twas a level plain, well watered and dotted here and there with houses. A range of wooded kills cleand the view, and towards them a broad road wound gently, till the eye lost it at their bose. All this was plain enough, in spite of the snow that covered the landscape. For the sun had burst out above, and the few slakes that still full looked black against his brilliance and

But what caused our joy was to see, along from us, with many bright glances of light the sunshine-a pretty sight, and the prettier

The girl bestie me gave a cry of delight. walk back towards the but, where I left her, and ran up kill for the basket and ham. On my return I found her examining a heap of runty took that, it we med, she had found on a shelf of the building. Twee me light help to the good fellowship that afterwards united us that from the first I could read her remon, that her eyes were as campled as the

ligion," she soud.

Somehow, I shivered all the while, and had a cruel shooting pain in my would that was like to have mastered me before the task was ended. But I managed to lower the body my spade and feeling very light in

last I remember, till I opened my eyes, and was amazed to find myself on my bank, and staring up at darkness. "I think you are very ill," said a vision;

The sun has been down for hours. You have been in a sween first, and then talkedoh, such penseme! Shame on me to let you She helped me to my feet and standled me,

tries were one to me. my life, she made another descent, and, con equa vite, curried it back and mixed The more evening I sat up, a sor

bed of dried bracken and out into the pure tress Delia; and, terrang, I held out my band "Now this is fumous," und she: "a day or two will see you as good a man as ever. "A day or two! To-morrow, at latest, I shall make trial to start." I noted a sudd

Indeed, so thoroughly was I recovered,

that, waking early next morning and finding

my sweet purse asleep from about weariness in

merciful, and rell me?" I led her a little saids to the foot of a tall pine; and there, though it wrong my heart, told her all, and left her to wrestle with this final worsew. She was so toming a thing to be striction thus that i, who had dealt the blow, first violence of her tears was abated, "I have crept back to the hut, covering my eyes. In an hear's time I looked out. She was goos. still some news that is ill hearing. Your At nightfull she returned, white with grief half mile below this - and with that I told and fategue, yet I was glad to see her asset my story. Throughout ien with weeping. Throughout

> "Sir, I have a faver to sek, and must risk being held Importunate "Frem you to see," I per its, "all salk of favors and best be dropped. No-listen. If ever it befell wen to long will know now the negatab stone - Ob, sir!

our supper she been allegoe; but when two

hobed up and speler in a steady

father, brother and services ready to die for day they are green." I would have spoten, but abs held up her

and I, a billed crusture, left groping in the

ow when you spoke of Authory a dear had -1 lay for some time daged with grad, By little and little, as the sruth gree plathe pain grew also past hearing. I should up and singgered into line woods to except it. I went find and evulphs, heading solking, for at diet my senses were all confussit, but in a while the walking cleared my with, and I could take, and takeling I could weep; and having wept, (sent fortify my beart. Here is the equal of, sir-though "In sets teamsoless for a maid to see even far leased a more. We are both bound for Curawall-yes on an immersials mission, I for my father's calcie of Girya, wherefrom its poor tale provon some unseen hands are thrusting sec. Alike we carry our pwo ks our mania. You must go forward; I may not go back. For from a king whe randor right his own affairs there is hitle hope; and in Cornwall I have surer friends thus by Therefore take me, sirtaky me for a commede! Am I sad! Do you fear a weary journey! I will smile-laugh-sing-put service behind me. I will contrive rand ways to resent the sufferiores. At the first blut of team, discard me, and go

the close, and now, breaking off, see put both hands to gover her face, that was not with binetes. I went over and took three in mine. "You have much me the kithest man alive," gaid L.

Nos drew back a pace with a trightened box, and would have polled but know away, "Because," I went on quotaly, "you have poid me this high compliment, to arms me. Propil was I to hime to you, and merrily

your way with no prick of countlence. Unly try me-ob, the shame of speaking thm? Her voice had grown more rankl towards

"This afternoon we may venture down to the plain, where no doubt we shall find a clergymon to seit us a patch of only ground."
Hely ground? Size tooked at no awhile and shook her head. "I am not of your re-

"I think no man ever discovered my father's religion. Perhaps there was more to discover; but he was no had father - See steadied her voice and went on: "He would prefer the hillside to your 'holy ground." So, an hour later, I delved his grave in the frosty earth, close by the spot where he lay,

softly into the hole and to cover it reverently from signit, and afterwards stood learning on while the girl knelt and prayed for her fa-And the picture of her as she knelt is the

an you lean on nee, and reach the but?"
"Why, yes—that is, I think so, Way is erything dark?"

and now we reserved the has I cannot tell you. It took more than one weary hour, as thought I), and such a raille of arms and legs In the but I lay four nights and four days between ague fit and fover, and that is all the account I can give of the time, save that on the second day the girl left me alone in the but sud descended to the plain, where, after esklog as many cottages, for a physician, she was puted to be amazingly well skilled in herbe and out of coors. On the fourth day, fearing for ing to a wayside tavers, purchased a plat-of tion that threw me into a profuse sweat,

> orner of the but, I staggered up from my change on her face, and added, "Indeed, you must hear my remens before setting me down for an ingrate," and told her of the king's

letter that I cerried. "I hoped that for wirtle our ways might he together," said It ently in the face. "Sir, as you know, my brother Anthony was to have not me-may, for pity's sake turn not your face away! I have guessed-